**Marijuana Task Force**

**Minutes for 7-12-17**

Present: Amanda Chafee, Matt Jones, Mike Foster, Krystle Blencowe, Mark Recktenwald and Norm McCumiskey

1. Marijuana Project – Norman and Mark explained to the group members what the Marijuana Project is about. Members of the MJ Project had their first meeting last Monday (7-10). The idea is to develop a 3 – 4 day marijuana curriculum that health teachers, throughout the county, could use to help educate and convince students that marijuana is not so safe and harmless. Some ideas the group came up with so far includes, having a DRE officer talk to students about marijuana’s impact on a person’s body, have Kinship clients talk with students about how marijuana impacted their life and help lead them to addiction, have a drug counselor talk to students about how marijuana is addicting, make use of a driving simulator that the Sheriff’s Department is going to purchase.
2. Task Force members were asked to come up with other ideas for the Marijuana Project. Some ideas presented were as follows: Have a doctor talk to students about how marijuana effects brain development, explain to students the difference between NYS medical marijuana and recreational marijuana. There is a lot of misconception, among students, about the provisions of the Compassionate Care Act, such as students believe with medical marijuana you can smoke it. Other ideas, have a soldier explain to students about what would happen to them if they were charged with a drug violation. Have a police officer talk to students about what happens if you get a drug conviction. Lastly, have an employer talk to students about what it takes to get a good job and keep a good job. How many employers can fill positions because people many people are failing mandatory pre-employment drug tests.
3. Book Maker – Task Force members were shown a book marker from Ontario County that has theme about medicine in the home and securing your prescriptions. On the back of the book maker were a list of pill Drop Boxes in their county. Norman suggested that we have similar book makers made up for Steuben.

Next meeting will be on Thursday August 24, 2017 at 8 E. Morris St. in Bath

Enjoy your summer!